



Music Technology AS & A2



Year 12 – GCE Music Technology (AS)

What will students learn / what skills will they develop?

Knowledge and Understanding:

Embracing new technology

Music technology, like other forms of technology, advances rapidly. This course provides opportunities to embrace recent developments in the field.

Understanding technical processes and principles

Students will have the opportunity to build understanding of the technical processes and principles that underpin effective use of music technology, and comment on it in writing.

Unit 1: Portfolio 1

Students must complete three tasks which together make the Music Technology Portfolio 11

- Task 1A: Sequenced Realised Performance1
- Task 1B: Multi-track Recording1
- Task 1C: Creative Sequenced Arrangement.

Students will also submit a logbook that will provide information on the resources used in each task as well as assessed questions on their creative sequenced arrangement.

Unit 2: Listening and Analysing

Students will gain knowledge of the styles most common in popular music and show an understanding through aural discrimination skills.

Skills Development:

The music technology course involves much practical work and encourages the cultivation of a wide range of skills. Students will have the opportunity to:

- sequence MIDI
- sequence audio
- record live instruments
- produce CDs
- compose using music technology

Year 13 – GCE Music Technology (A2)

What will students learn / what skills will they develop?

Knowledge and Understanding:

Unit 3: Portfolio 2

Students will gain knowledge and understanding by completing three tasks:

- Task 3A: Sequenced Integrated Performance 1
- Task 3B: Multi-track Recording1
- Task 3C: Composing using Music Technology.

Students will also submit a logbook which will provide information on the resources used in each task.

Unit 4: Analysing and Producing

Students will develop knowledge of:

- music and the principles of music technology through a series of written commentaries, manipulations and production tasks.
- technological processes and production techniques

Skills Development:

Students will learn and use a variety of music and music technology skills building on those gained in the AS course.

Assessment

The AS/A2 course follows the EDEXCEL specification: GCE MUSIC (8MT01/9MT01).

The breakdown of the assessment is as follows:

AS – 70% Coursework 30% Exam

Unit 1: Portfolio 1

Students will produce an audio CD entitled 'Music Technology Portfolio 1', containing three tracks of work as specified in the three tasks above. They will also present a logbook. The work is to be done under coursework conditions between the issue of the stimulus material in September and the submission date. The logbook will detail equipment used and be used to answer two assessed questions on their creative sequenced arrangement.

Unit 2: Listening and Analysing

1 hour 45 minute listening examination. Each student will have a copy of an audio CD supplied by Edexcel, containing recorded excerpts.

A2 – 60% Coursework 40% Exam

Unit 3: Portfolio 2

Students will produce an audio CD entitled 'Music Technology Portfolio 2', containing three tracks of work as specified in the three tasks above. They will also present a logbook, detailing equipment used. The work is to be done under coursework conditions between the issue of the stimulus material in November and the submission date.

Unit 4: Analysing and Producing

This assessment will take the form of a 2-hour examination. Each student will have an audio CD, which will contain a series of music files to be imported into music production software. Each student will also have an examination paper in which some or all of the CD tracks will be notated as conventional staff notation, editing grids or numerical data.



Music Technology AS & A2



Literacy & Oracy

Literacy is developed in music technology in the following ways:

- Making notes on the content of the course
- Communicating with musicians involved in recordings
- Developing logbooks
- Analysing recordings in writing

Numeracy

In music technology pupils are expected to be able to identify and play musical patterns and sequences, and numerical skills are developed in relation to certain instrumental skills. Using digital audio workstations involve gain levels, matrix grids, MIDI data, compression ratios, frequency management as examples. Counting, subdivisions of bars and beats, song structures are also examples of numeracy in music technology.

Home Study

Homework is set when appropriate to the teaching and learning. Students are expected to practice their instrument on a regular basis and engage in wider reading around popular music since 1910, the development of music technology over time, and all aspects of music production, recording/composition.

Resources needed

Pens, planners, work/assessment folders.

Meeting the needs of Individual Students Students have access to a range of ICT to assist with compositional tasks. This may be recording computer software Garageband & Logic Pro or notation software Sibelius. Such ICT allows students of differing ability and skills to choose an approach to suit them.

Classes for music technology are generally small in numbers so the teacher to student ratio is very high. This allows a high level of teacher support.

Additional Support for Learning

AS/A2 students can access the music department at lunchtimes and afterschool for additional support. Students can also access the music technology facilities, including the studio, during study lessons. Additional support can be provided from the instrumental tutors and the external professional musicians we have visiting the school for recording and teaching support.

Useful websites:

Soundonsound.com
Lynda.com
PointBlankOnline.net
Musictechmag.co.uk
Edexcel.com Allmusic.com
Musictechstudent.co.uk
digitalstudent.co.uk

Extra-Curricular Activities and Clubs

Students who opt for AS/A2 music technology are able to continue access to instrumental lessons received at Key Stage 4.

SMSC

Social: When creating a multi-track recording, candidates will need to work with a group of instrumentalists to create the recording. They may need to set up schedules for the recordings and work in a group.

Moral: Owing to the ever-widening availability of MIDI on the internet, candidates will need to exercise moral judgement that all the work they submit is their own.

Spiritual: Music technology provides opportunities for 2 candidates to express their creativity through the creation of recordings, arrangements and compositions. Such expression can be seen as an important part as an individual's spirituality.

Cultural: Candidates will be studying music from different decades and cultures. They will be asked to evaluate, analyse and contextualise both familiar and unfamiliar music in the written exams.

Life in Modern Britain

- Students learn about popular music styles since 1910 which have had an important role in shaping British culture.
- Students explore music from other cultures which have fused with British music to develop new styles and genres.
- Students learn skills in music technology and understand the relevance of these to a range of careers in the British music industry.